

Occupational Authorizations

for the meeting of the

ALC-OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, September 17, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Department of Health

WATER DISTRIBUTION OPERATOR

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Engineering Section

Scope of Practice: Ark Code §17-51-101 defines "water system operator" as "any person who, during the performance of his or her regular duties at a community public water system, a nontransient noncommunity public water system, or any other noncommunity public water system which utilizes a surface water or surface water-influenced source, exercises individual judgment by which, either directly or indirectly, the safety, quality, and quantity of water delivered from the water system might be affected."

A Water Distribution Operator is a water system operator that is responsible for a water distribution facility.

Statutory Requirement(s): Ark. Code Ann. §§17-51-101 et. seq and 17-51-201 et seq. provide the statutory authority for the types and grades of water operator licensure. See also Acts 333 of 1957, 1001 of 1991, and 494 of 1997.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Fees & Penalties

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Examination	\$25.00	Once
Fee	License	\$10.00	Once
Fee	Renewal	\$10.00	Biennially
Penalty	Late renewal	\$5.00	Once
Fee	Reciprocity	\$25.00	Once
Fee	Reinstatement	\$10.00	Once

Administrative Rules Documents

Document Type	Document
Rules	17CARpt.51-Markup.pdf

Supporting Evidence Documents

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee Questionnaire.pdf

WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR

Authorization Type: Licensure # of Individuals Regulated:

Entity Division Name: Engineering Section

Scope of Practice: Ark Code §17-51-101 defines "water system operator" as "any person who, during the performance of his or her regular duties at a community public water system, a nontransient noncommunity public water system, or any other noncommunity public water system which utilizes a surface water or surface water-influenced source, exercises individual judgment by which, either directly or indirectly, the

WATER TREATMENT OPERATOR (Continued)

safety, quality, and quantity of water delivered from the water system might be affected."

A Water Treatment Operator is a water system operator that is responsible for a water treatment facility.

Statutory Requirement(s): Ark. Code Ann. §§17-51-101 et. seq and 17-51-201 et seq. provide the statutory authority for the types and grades of water operator licensure. See also Acts 333 of 1957, 1001 of 1991, and 494 of 1997.

Pursuant to Arkansas Code §17-4-104, do you provide an automatic licensure to a uniformed service member stationed in the State of Arkansas, a uniformed service veteran who resides in or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; and the spouse of a uniformed service member who is stationed in, resides in, or establishes residency in the State of Arkansas; a uniformed service member who is assigned a tour of duty that excludes the uniformed service member's spouse from accompanying the uniformed service member and the spouse relocates to this state; and a uniformed service member who is killed or succumbs to his or her injuries or illness in the line of duty if the spouse establishes residency in the state?

Yes

Fees & Penalties

Fee Type	Fee Description	Amount (\$)	Frequency
Fee	Examination	\$25.00	Hourly
Fee	License	\$10.00	Once
Fee	License Renewal	\$10.00	Biennially

Administrative Rules Documents

Document Type	Document
Rules	17CARpt.51-Markup.pdf

Supporting Evidence Documents

Document Type	Document
Public Health and Safety	Occupational_Licensing_Review_Subcommittee_Questionnaire.pdf

ALC – Occupational Licensing Review Subcommittee

Occupational Entity Questionnaire

Responses to the following questions are due via email to Subcommittee staff no later than the 15th of the month immediately preceding the month the occupational authorization is scheduled for review by the Subcommittee.

1. Would consumers be at risk of substantial harm if Arkansas did not have this occupational authorization? What instances of specific and substantial harm have been documented in the past year?

The General Assembly found as such in Act 333 of 1957, as codified in Ark. Code §17-51-201:

In order to safeguard the public health, all water system operators of community and certain noncommunity public water systems from which water is sold, distributed, or otherwise offered for human consumption, whether such water systems are publicly or privately owned and operated, shall be licensed and certified as competent by the Department of Health under the provisions of this chapter and under such rules as the State Board of Health may adopt under the provisions of this chapter.

2. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by unauthorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity? The Department has not received any recent complaints of unauthorized practitioners.

3. How many complaints were made to the occupational entity by consumers being harmed by authorized practitioners? What specific action was taken by the occupational entity? One complaint was made by an anonymous person in June 2026. ADH responded to the individual. The complaint was not substantiated.

4. Were any applicants who otherwise met authorization requirements denied an authorization in the past year? If so, why? No.

5. How much does the occupational entity collect annually in fees, and what are annual expenses? How much money does the occupational entity have in reserves? The fees are collected every other year, approximately \$47,720 every other year. The current amount in reserve is approximately \$220,803.

6. If the occupational entity has a positive amount in reserves, when was the last time reserve funds were used? For what purpose? The reserve is currently being reduced by funding one of the three full-time positions dedicated to this state-wide program.

7. Does the occupational entity have any other sources of revenue? Could occupational authorization fees be reduced without causing the occupational entity to be underfunded? The Department does receive a grant that funds current costs of testing and materials not otherwise covered by licensing fees and the remaining full-time employees for this program.

8. How many applicants for the occupational authorization fail each year? Does the occupational entity track how many applicants that do not progress are veterans, women, or minorities? The Department does not track this information. Some of the failures are repeat failures because an applicant may take the exam multiple times.

9. Can applicants complete the training requirements for this occupational authorization with vocational or non-traditional education (e.g., apprenticeships)? What percentage of applicants complete apprenticeships? Yes, courses are free of charge and are taught by the Arkansas Environmental Training Academy and Arkansas Rural Water Association. These courses are also available online.

10. In what ways would removal of the occupational authorization or reduction of occupational authorization requirements be harmful to current authorization holders? The license is a requirement of the federal Safe Drinking Water Act and therefore would put the state out of compliance with federal regulations.